

**Security Council**

Distr.: General  
14 August 2002  
English  
Original: French

---

**Letter dated 12 August 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

On instructions from my Government, I regret to have to draw your attention to the fighting that took place last week in the city of Bunia, in the extreme north-east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (the Ituri region), and to the continuing climate of heightened tension caused by the redeployment of the regular Ugandan army in that city.

Over 90 people, most of them civilian women and children, have died in atrocious conditions, their bodies horribly mutilated and dumped in mass graves.

Since Friday, 9 August 2002, the city of Bunia has therefore come under the effective control of the Ugandan army, which has besieged it on the spurious pretext of preventing the fighting which began on 6 August 2002 from spreading. Such fighting was supposedly between former rebels of the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (the Mbusa Nyamwisi liberation movement wing) and one of the dissident groups supporter<sup>d</sup> by the regular Ugandan army under the umbrella of the Union des patriotes congolais, as well as militias belonging to, inter alia, the Hema, Gegere and Alur tribes.

The stark truth about the origin of these clashes is that the regular Ugandan army has been using ethnic conflicts to gain firm control of the region's natural resources, and in particular to strengthen its control over the gold-mines and the Coltan mines.

It is also useful to analyse Uganda's attitude in the light of the Pretoria Agreement signed on 30 July 2002 by my Government and the Rwandan Government. We note with regret that since the signing of that peace Agreement, Uganda has reoccupied the areas it had evacuated just after the Sun City Agreement.

While in the Democratic Republic of the Congo there are ongoing initiatives aimed at national reconciliation, Uganda is not hesitating to do its utmost to continue its shameless exploitation of the natural resources and other assets of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In order to restore a minimum of order in a region where the presence of the Ugandan army has already caused enough turmoil, my Government calls on the Security Council:



1. To condemn this fresh violence in the Ituri region, specifically in Bunia;
2. To hold Uganda responsible for this upsurge in violence in its capacity as the de facto authority in that part of Congolese territory which it occupies;
3. To demand that Uganda immediately arrest Ugandan military officials, militiamen and any other members of movements involved in such fighting, which has claimed the lives of about 100 innocent civilians, mainly women and children, in the city of Bunia;
4. To demand further that Uganda hand over the individuals responsible for those atrocities to the judicial authorities so that they may answer for their crimes;
5. To call on Uganda to take adequate measures to address the serious humanitarian situation created by the massive displacement of the inhabitants of Bunia and the surrounding areas;
6. Lastly, to demand that Uganda withdraw from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in accordance with resolution 1304 (2000).

My Government invites the Security Council to act on this matter, and would be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a Council document.

*(Signed)* Atoki Ileka  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative